

An alarm clock with a variable alarm sound based on information provided by an external data source receives and processes a data file from an external source that contains information related to the alarm sound to be played upon activation of the alarm. When the alarm is triggered, the programmable controller accesses stored control programs, and plays audio content from sources available to it as described by the control programs. The received data file contains information that modifies the control programs of the microprocessor and affects the manner in which the alarm playback is conducted. A preferred embodiment is capable of receiving both programming instructions and data files from an Internet connection, and includes integrated sources of audio playback, a floppy data drive, a video display, and the capability of sending signals to an Internet web site.